

We claim:

1. A computer implemented method, comprising:
 - 2 accepting a posting on a website of a project that a buyer wants completed;
 - 3 receiving a bid on the project from a seller;
 - 4 allowing the buyer to accept the received bid from the seller; and
 - 5 allowing the buyer and the seller to work on the project in a collaborative workspace
 - 6 accessible by only the buyer and the seller.
- 1 2. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the posting includes a project name.
- 1 2 3. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the posting includes a project description.
- 1 2 4. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the posting includes a category.
- 1 2 5. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the posting includes a price estimate.
- 1 2 6. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the bid is received in a closed auction.
- 1 2 7. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the bid is received in an open auction.
- 1 2 8. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the bid is received in a Dutch auction.

1 9. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the collaborative workspace
2 includes:

3 one or more communication tools;
4 a file structure;
5 one or more workbenches; and
6 one or more project management tools.

1 10. The computer implemented method of claim 9, wherein the file structure includes at
2 least one private folder.

1 11. The computer implemented method of claim 9, wherein the file structure includes at
2 least one shared folder.

1 12. A computer implemented method, comprising:
2 accepting on a website, the posting of a service offering by a seller;
3 receiving requirements for the service offering from a buyer;
4 returning an optimized list of service offerings to the buyer in accordance with the
5 buyer's requirements; and
6 accepting a purchase request for the service offering from the buyer.

1 13. The computer implemented method of claim 12, wherein at least one of the buyer's
2 requirements is inflexible.

1 14. The computer implemented method of claim 12, wherein the optimized list includes
2 service offerings that meet all of the buyer's requirements.

1 15. The computer implemented method of claim 12, wherein the optimized list includes
2 service offerings that meet a subset of the buyer's requirements.

1 16. A computer implemented method, comprising:
2 accepting on a website, the posting of a service offering for a project by a seller;
3 receiving requirements for the service offering from a buyer;
4 accepting a purchase request for the service offering from the buyer; and
5 allowing the buyer and the seller to work on the project in a collaborative workspace
6 accessible by only the buyer and the seller.

1 17. In a computer system, an apparatus used by a buyer and seller for buying and selling
2 services over a network, comprising:
3 a web server for connecting to the network;
4 an application connected to the web server for generating information based on
5 communication with the buyer and seller;
6 a database connected to the application for storing information received from the
7 application in memory.

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